

INTRODUCTION

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Community Health Council is to determine the health needs of the community and develop a plan of action for improving the health status of people in Fayette County, Tennessee.

COUNTY DESCRIPTION

Land Area

Fayette County is the third largest county in Tennessee. The county encompasses 704 square miles and has 450,560 acres of land. It is bounded on the west by Shelby County, on the north by Tipton and Haywood, on the east by Hardeman and on the south by the state of Mississippi.

Fayette County was formed in 1824 from parts of Shelby and Hardeman counties. The name was chosen to honor Marquis De La Fayette, hero of the Revolutionary War. Incorporated towns in Fayette County include: Braden, Gallaway, LaGrange, Moscow, Oakland, Piperton, Rossville, Williston, Hickory Withe and the county seat of Somerville.

The prosperity of Fayette County during its first 50 years was dependent upon agriculture, but since that time the economy has continued to expand.

ECONOMIC BASE

A reliable workforce, excellent quality of life, and outstanding industrial support services have led to an extended period of economic growth in Fayette County.

Agriculture remains an important part of the economy. Local crops include corn, cotton, forestry, orchards, peppers, soybeans, squash, and wheat. Cotton and corn are the leading crops. Major employers in the county include the Troxel Company (steel tubing), Mrs. Smith's Frozen Foods (Eggo waffles), Somerville Mills (ladies' underwear) and Master Apparel (men's slacks).

Tourism and recreation are fast becoming leading industries in the community. Recreational opportunities include hunting, fishing, boating, swimming, and golf.

Fayette County is known for its beautiful antebellum homes which serve to remind residents of the romantic period of the old south. Each year many historic homes are on display during the "Architectural Treasures of Fayette County" tour. The town of La Grange, filled with historic homes and antiques, has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.